

June 3, 2002, MB#48
Minutes
Catawba County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session, Monday, June 3, 2002, 9:30 a.m.

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The Catawba County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, June 3, 2002, 9:30 a.m., at the 1924 Courthouse, Robert E. Hibbitts Meeting Room, 30 North College Avenue, Newton, North Carolina.

Present were Chairman W. Steve Ikerd, Vice-Chair Marie H. Huffman, and Commissioners Katherine W. Barnes, Barbara G. Beatty, and Dan A. Hunsucker.

Absent: None.

A quorum was present.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Deputy County Manager Steven D. Wyatt, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, County Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

1. Chairman Ikerd called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Invocation offered by Reverend Joel Cherry.
3. Commissioner Huffman made a motion to approve the minutes from the regular session of Monday, May 6, 2002. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Special Guests:
 - a. Resolution Recognizing ICMA Resource Cities/Counties Team from Tirana, Albania.

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to adopt the following resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Ikerd presented the following resolution to the Albanian Delegation.

**Resolution No. 2002-12
A Resolution Recognizing Delegation
From Tirana, Albania**

WHEREAS, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), pairs US local governments with local governments in developing and transitional countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, US cities, counties or associations are partnered with counterparts to provide technical assistance and improve professional management, support participatory government, support economic development, promote sound financial management, and improve delivery of governmental services; and

WHEREAS, Catawba County, North Carolina was chosen to participate in this program to represent the United States by being matched with the City of Tirana, Albania; and

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2002, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners approved a Resolution for Catawba County's Participation in the ICMA Resource Cities Program in Tirana, Albania; and

WHEREAS, over an 18 to 24 month period, Catawba County will provide technical assistance to Tirana. A total of 4-5 visits by Catawba County staff will be made to Tirana and Tirana staff will make a total of 3 visits to Catawba County. All travel, accommodations, and related expenses are borne by the United States Government through USAID; and

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Manager, Director of Utilities and Engineering and Director of Finance visited Tirana, February 24 through March 2, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Catawba County Board of Commissioners recognizes the June 1-8, 2002, visit by the Albanian Delegation as a bridge promoting the exchange of information, ideas and culture, and the Board desires to recognize Mrs. Mimi Kodheli, Deputy Mayor; Mrs. Edlira Toci, Director of Cabinet; Mrs. Belinda Ikonomi, Director of Economic Resources Department; and Mr. Dritan Agolli, Director of the Public Works Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, I, W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the entire Board and the citizens of Catawba County, hereby extend to the Tirana delegation a warm and cordial welcome to Catawba County.

This the 3rd day of June, 2002.

CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
/s/ W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman

Deputy Mayor Mimi Kodheli thanked Catawba County staff for its hospitality and said Tirana is facing many changes and Tirana is the economic, social and cultural center of Albania. The immigration of population into their country in the 10 years of democracy and transition brought a lot of problems as well as opportunities for their city and country.

5. Special guests not listed on agenda:

Chairman Ikerd recognized Candidates Glenn Barger, Gary Teague, Gerald Kamp, and Joyce Rudisill. He also recognized Lewis Woods and Dr. Duane Kirkman.

6. Appointments:

Community Service Block Grant Advisory Board

Vice Chair Huffman recommended the appointment of Rev. Lenton D. Rhodes, 492 Catawba Valley Boulevard SE, Hickory, replacing Jerrold Tiggett. Rev. Rhodes first, three-year term will expire June 30, 2005.

Newton Board of Adjustment

Commissioner Hunsucker recommended the appointment of Kate Oberlin, 1982 Settlemyre Bridge Road, Newton as alternate for an unexpired term. The term will expire March 31, 2003.

Commissioner Hunsucker made a motion to approve the aforementioned appointments. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Consent Agenda:

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy presented the following consent agenda items:

a. Refund Request For June 2002.

One refund request totaling \$72.86 was made to the Tax Office. The records have been checked and this refund verified.

Refund Request – June, 2002

Charles M. and Candy Putnam, 104 Dunlap Loop, Statesville, NC 28625, Account No. 138199
In 2000 Mr. Putnam's tagged camper was listed for taxes in January with Catawba County. This same camper was also billed in Iredell County. Mr. Putnam requested a refund for the applicable amount he paid to Catawba County in error.

		County		Late-List		Denver Rural		Late-List		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Penalty</u>		<u>Rate</u>	<u>Tax</u>	<u>Penalty</u>		<u>Total</u>
2000	12,570	.495	62.22	10% 6.22		.032	4.02	10% .40		\$72.86

b. Resolution Authorizing Donation of Personal Property to Exodus Homes by Private Sale.

Mr. Lundy said General Statute 160A-279 provides for counties to convey personal property to a nonprofit organization by private sale. A local government may convey property without monetary consideration, if the recipient agrees to use the property for continued public use. The Board must adopt a resolution at a regular meeting. The resolution must identify the property being conveyed and authorize a named official to dispose of the property. Once the resolution has been adopted, the statute requires that the local government publish a notice summarizing the contents of the document. The conveyance may not be concluded until at least ten days after the county publishes a notice. Exodus Homes is a private nonprofit organization providing 57 beds of supportive housing for

recovering addicts and alcoholics. They help the residents to find employment. Many of the higher paying, less physically demanding jobs available require a pre-interview computer exercise or other computer skills which automatically excludes anyone who is not computer literate. Exodus Homes has seen a great need for vocational training to make the residents more marketable in the workplace. The mission is to "develop an Information Technology (IT) apprenticeship model that can be effectively incorporated into the continuum of services in supportive recovery housing as a Vocational Training Program in Hickory." "The project has the ability to raise the computer literacy of the entire community by returning repaired donated computers to those in need, thus increasing the need for IT technicians in the area."

The residents repair the computer systems; the computers are then donated to the school systems or other nonprofit organizations.

Exodus Homes has requested surplus computers for this program. The computers are of no further use to the county and the operating system has been removed to delete any County related documents. The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the donation of ten Gateway Computers to Exodus Homes without monetary consideration with the stipulation the computers be used for a public purpose.

**Resolution No. 2002-13
Declaration of Surplus Property and
Authorization to Dispose of by Private Sale**

WHEREAS, Catawba County owns ten Gateway Computers; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes 160A-279 authorizes a county to convey personal property by private sale to a nonprofit corporation; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes 160A-279 authorizes the conveyance without monetary consideration if the recipient ensures the property will be used for a public purpose; and

WHEREAS, Exodus Homes is a private nonprofit organization that trains recovering addicts and alcoholics to repair computer equipment;

WHEREAS, Exodus Homes agrees the equipment donated by the County will be used for a public purpose;

WHEREAS, the County has no further need for ten Gateway Computers

THEREFORE, The Catawba County Board of Commissioners resolves that:

1. Ten Gateway Computers with monitors, keyboards and mouse are surplus property.
2. The property will be donated to Exodus Homes without monetary consideration, repaired by Exodus Homes, and the property will then be donated to local school systems or other nonprofit organizations within Catawba County.
3. The Purchasing Agent shall be authorized to conduct the transfer of property and shall publish a notice summarizing the contents of this resolution and the property shall be conveyed anytime after ten days after the notice publication.

This the 3rd day of June, 2002.

/s/ W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

End Consent Agenda

8. Departmental Reports:

a. Finance:

1. Budget Amendment.

Finance Director Rodney N. Miller introduced Ms. Jeanne Jarrett, Assistant Finance Director.

Mr. Miller said the state of North Carolina requires all local governments to operate under a balanced annual budget. The budget ordinance is the legal document that is adopted by the governing board. It is the legal means by which taxes are levied, revenues estimated and appropriations made. Amendments to the budget ordinance must be approved by the governing board. As preparations were made for this year's budget, a decision was made to leave in the budget \$4.2 million of State reimbursements, but only spend the funds as they were received from the State.

In November, we received \$2.9 million (70%) of the reimbursements, but only disbursed \$1.7 million (40%), due to the uncertainty of the impact of the State budget on local spending and decreased sales taxes, projected to be as much as \$1 million below projections. On February 18, the Board agreed to withhold the \$1.2 million in reimbursements as a hedge against further revenue reductions.

In April, the County received word that the State budget situation is worsening and they are left with a projected \$1.5 billion deficit this year and possibly worse next year. As a result, the likelihood of the second half of inventory reimbursements, beer and wine taxes and homestead exemption funds being released to the County is very slim. In addition, sales tax revenues statewide continue to be below expectations.

Mr. Miller said to offset this loss in revenue, the Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve a budget amendment reducing appropriations to all County departments, schools, CVCC and outside agencies, funded by the County, as a result of the Governor escrowing County reimbursements to balance the State budget in the current year for a total of \$2.5 million, the amount of reduced revenues expected this year.

Catawba County Fiscal Year 2001/02 Allocations

	FY 2001/02 Recommended Budget	Funds Escrowed	FY 2001-02 Final Budget
County Department			
Budget	\$196,099	\$7,648	\$188,451
Cooperative Extension	\$246,228	\$9,603	\$236,625
County Manager	\$536,907	\$20,939	\$515,968
Elections	\$264,020	\$9,574	\$254,446
Emergency Services	\$4,671,438	\$182,187	\$4,489,251
Facilities	\$2,047,289	\$79,844	\$1,967,445
Finance	\$1,069,071	\$41,694	\$1,027,377
Jail	\$1,091,594	\$51,230	\$1,040,364
Legal	\$245,387	\$9,570	\$235,817
Library	\$1,871,835	\$73,001	\$1,798,834
Mental Health	\$1,248,165	\$48,679	\$1,199,486
Personnel	\$611,710	\$25,607	\$586,103
Planning & Development	\$759,559	\$29,902	\$729,657
Public Health	\$1,974,961	\$77,023	\$1,897,938
Register of Deeds	\$602,060	\$23,572	\$578,488
Risk Management	\$117,305	\$4,575	\$112,730
Sheriff	\$5,734,972	\$215,012	\$5,519,960
Social Services	\$5,676,466	\$221,382	\$5,455,084
Soil & Water	\$125,983	\$3,913	\$122,070
Tax (includes Reval)	\$1,646,674	\$64,220	\$1,582,454
Technology	\$2,560,721	\$100,155	\$2,460,566
Utilities & Engineering	\$1,294,420	\$51,400	\$1,243,020
Total County Departments	\$34,592,864	\$1,350,730	\$33,242,134
External Agencies			
Catawba County Schools	\$17,966,610	700,698	\$17,265,912
Hickory City Schools	\$5,035,628	196,389	\$4,839,239
Newton-Conover City Schools	\$3,043,666	118,703	\$2,924,963
CVCC	\$1,961,684	76,506	\$1,885,178
Rescue Squads	\$523,135	20,276	\$502,859
All Other External Agencies	\$773,550	27,234	\$746,316
Total External Agencies	\$29,304,273	\$1,139,806	\$28,164,467
Grand Total	\$63,897,137	\$2,490,536	\$61,406,601

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the aforementioned budget amendment. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Social Services:

1. Funding Plan for the 2002-2003 Home and Community Care Block Grant.

Social Work Program Manager Grace McLeod said a proposed funding plan for the 2002-2003 Home and Community Care Block Grant was recommended by the Home and Community Care Advisory Board. Social Services was designated the Lead Agency on Aging for this block grant by the Board of Commissioners. According to the Division of Aging requirements, the proposed plan must be reviewed and acted on by the Board of Commissioners. The Finance and Personnel Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners approve the plan. It will require signatures on Department of Aging (DOA) forms 731 and 732 by Chairman Ikerd and Finance Director Rodney N. Miller. The Department of Social Services will submit these to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments no later than June 30, 2002.

Ms. McLeod said this plan had been in the county for 10 years and represents a combination of federal, state and local funding in a partnership with a match. This is the first year in 10 that they have experienced a reduction in the current budget year and do not have an official allocation having been received from the state this year. They received notice in March of a 2.24 percent reduction in this year's current budget. They were notified verbally to prepare a budget next year with the same reduction figures. She said this year two providers sustained and absorbed the budget cuts; but, next year the advisory board was asked to spread the budget cuts among all the service components that are funded. The agreement results in approximately 47 clients in Catawba County not receiving services that would have specifically in the areas of adult day care, day health, and in-home aide. There may be a 7 percent reduction and if so the budget will need to be reduced another 4.76 percent.

Commissioner Huffman commended the Home and Community Care Advisory Board for working on the budget cuts.

Commissioner Barnes said she, Mr. Lundy and Commissioner Hunsucker were in Raleigh last week and they appealed to the local representatives to look judiciously at where cuts were made in the state budget and spoke directly to some of the issues involved in this block grant and how this could force some of our elderly population into nursing homes requiring more expenditures in the short term. She commended Ms. McLeod for working on this plan.

Commissioner Huffman made a motion to approve the funding plan. The motion carried unanimously.

c. Sheriff's Office:

1. Amendments to Section 315.01 of the County Code.

Sheriff L. David Huffman requested an amend the County Code to make it unlawful to discharge a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling or outbuilding. The 500 feet distance is what the gun manufactures recommend. The current language in the ordinance falls short of providing sufficient safeguards for protection against the discharge of weapons from adjacent properties. The Sheriff's Office has received an increase in calls regarding this issue. The current law limits officers' abilities to protect citizens. The amendment makes exceptions for those discharging weapons less than 500 feet from their own building on their property and for law enforcement officers engaged in official duties. Should the amendment pass the Sheriff's office has plans on educating the public including warning first offenders who may not be aware of the new law. The Policy and Goals Subcommittee recommended that the Board of Commissioners amend Section 315.01 as requested by Sheriff Huffman.

Ordinance No. 2002-01

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that the Catawba County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

315.01 USE OF FIREARMS

- (A) It shall be unlawful to use a firearm for the purpose of terrorizing others, or to use a firearm to the annoyance and danger of others. ('77 Code § 14½-7)
- (B) It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or fire any pistol, shotgun, rifle or other firearm of any description whatsoever on, or from any public street or highway, or the rights-of-way thereof, or within 500 feet of a dwelling or an outbuilding of a dwelling not owned by the person, in the county. This section does not apply to any law enforcement officer engaged in official duty.
- (C) This section shall not be construed to prohibit any citizen from discharging a firearm when lawfully defending his or her person or property, nor officers and enlisted personnel of the armed forces of the United States which in discharge of their official duties and acting under orders requiring them to carry arms or weapons, civil officers of the United States while in the discharge of their official duties, officers and soldiers of the militia and the state guard when called into actual service, officers of the state, or of any county, city, or town charged with the execution of the laws of the state when acting in the discharge of their official duties, nor shall this section affect the operation of public or private firing ranges already in existence, nor shall this section be construed to affect hunting regulated by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and preempted by state law.
- (D) The possession of firearms or other weapons, concealed or otherwise, is prohibited in county buildings and workplaces, including the vehicles of employees when on official county business; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to federal, state, county or city law enforcement officers when acting in the discharge of their official duties. ~~Any person convicted of violating the provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by fine, imprisonment or both in the discretion of the court.~~
- (E) Any person convicted of violating the provision of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by fine, imprisonment, or both, in the discretion of the court. (Sess. Laws 1967, Ch. 350) ('77 Code, App. D, Art. IV, § 1) (Ord. passed 9-6-83; Am. Ord. passed 8-7-95; Firing Range, 515.172) Penalty see § 10.99

This 3rd day of June, 2002.

/s/ W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman

County Attorney Robert Oren Eades said he shared with each board member changes to the language to make it clear that you may stand on your own property and fire your weapon as long as you are not within 500 feet of an outbuilding or residence that you do not own.

Commissioner Hunsucker said he received a phone call from a citizen who felt the 500 feet was excessive and felt 150 feet would be more appropriate. He said Sheriff Huffman did address the distance issue.

Chairman Ikerd said it is important to have a rule on the distance.

Commissioner Barnes made a motion to adopt the changes to the aforementioned ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Attorneys' Report. None.

10. Manager's Report:

- a. Adoption of the Catawba County Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy said the board had two days of hearing with departments and outside agencies and last Thursday held the budget public hearing and wrap-up session. Mr. Lundy said the changes have been incorporated into the budget. The overall budget is down 3.7 percent and the general fund is down almost 5 percent. The reimbursements from the state have been budgeted and if we do not receive the reimbursements by July 1 the money will be escrowed and staff will do the same as with the FY 2001-2002 budget, the money will be kept and if we do not receive the money it will not be spent. Staff will come back later in the year to make those changes if the reimbursements are not received. The recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 is \$163,212,479.

BUDGET ORDINANCE NO. 2002-02

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Catawba County:

SECTION I

Budget Adoption, 2002/03

The following budget with anticipated fund revenues of \$163,212,479 and departmental expenditures of \$163,212,479 (see pages 14 through 19 of the budget document for breakdown) is hereby adopted in accordance with G.S. 159 by the County of Catawba for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2003, and the same is adopted by fund and department.

The following procedures, controls, and authorities shall apply to transfers and adjustments within the budget except for the budgets of the Reinventing Departments as shown in Section II.

- A. **Transfers Between Funds:** Transfers of appropriations between funds may be made only by the Board of Commissioners with the exception of merit, reclassification funds, and contingency which the County Manager has the authority to transfer.
- B. **Transfers Between Departments:** Transfers of appropriations between departments in a fund and from contingency shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners or may be approved by the County Manager in conformance with the following guidelines:
 - 1. The County Manager finds that they are consistent with operational needs and any Board approved goals.
 - 2. Inter-department transfers do not exceed \$50,000 each.
 - 3. Transfers from Contingency appropriations do not exceed \$50,000 each unless the County Manager finds an emergency exists.
 - 4. All transfers between departments and funds are reported to the Board of Commissioners no later than its next regular meeting following the date of the transfer.
- C. **Transfers Within Departments and Activities:** Department Heads may transfer line item appropriations between activities within the departments under their jurisdiction with the approval of the Budget Manager.
- D. **Transfers Within Activities in a Department:** Department Heads are hereby authorized to transfer line item appropriations within activities under their jurisdiction with the approval of the Budget Manager.
- E. **Transfers of Appropriations from Contingency for Real Estate Transactions:** Transfers of appropriations from Contingency or departments may be made by the County Manager in order to secure options, pay deposits, or pay other necessary expenses related to real estate transactions approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- F. **Transfers of Capital Projects Appropriations:** Transfers of appropriations between projects within a capital project fund shall be approved by the Board of Commissioners, except that such transfers may be approved by the County Manager when they are necessary to expedite planned work and when they do not adversely affect any approved project. All manager-approved transfers shall be reported to the Board of Commissioners no later than its next regular meeting.

- G. **Transfers of Appropriations From Special Departmental Expense and Revenue Contingencies:**
Transfers of appropriations may be made by the County Manager from special departmental expense and revenue contingency accounts that have been set aside to accommodate mid-year adjustments for allocations from outside agencies. The budget for such special departmental contingency expenditures will not be used until revenues are received and the related funds are transferred out of the contingency accounts to an appropriate line item.

SECTION II

Amendment to Procedures, Controls, and Authorities for Reinventing Departments

The following procedures, controls, and authorities shall apply to transfers, personnel, and adjustments within the budget for the Reinventing Departments, as determined by the County Manager:

- A. As part of this process, the County's fund balance has been maintained by taking into account the average amount of unexpended funds turned back at the end of each year and making a one time reduction in each Reinventing Department's allotment by that amount.
- B. The Board of Commissioners will appropriate funds for the Reinventing Departments based on approved outcomes to be achieved during the fiscal year.
- C. Department Heads are hereby authorized to transfer appropriations between activities or from special department contingencies under their jurisdiction. Requests for transfers from the General Fund contingency must be approved by the County Manager. The budget for such special departmental contingency expenditures will not be used until revenues are received and the related funds are transferred out of the contingency accounts to an appropriate line item.
- D. Department Heads within the Reinventing Departments are hereby authorized to reallocate existing positions between activities under their jurisdiction.
- E. Departments will be allowed to retain all unexpended allocations and/or revenues as defined by the County Manager.
- F. Reinventing Departments may create or abolish positions which impact the outcomes approved by the Board of Commissioners and within available revenues upon summary approval of the Board of Commissioners. Approval will come at the next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners' meeting and will be attached and approved as part of the minutes.

SECTION III

Tax Levy Rate

A tax rate of \$0.495 per \$100 of assessed valuation is hereby levied for Fiscal Year 2002/03, all of which is levied in the General Fund. No discounts will be allowed for early payment of taxes.

The following rates are levied for volunteer fire districts:

<u>Volunteer Fire Department</u>	<u>Tax Rate Per \$100 Valuation</u>
Bandys	\$0.0390
Catawba	\$0.0700
Claremont	\$0.0700
Conover Rural	\$0.0350
Cooksville	\$0.0600
Denver	\$0.0320
Fairbrook	\$0.0280
Icard-Longview #1	\$0.0440
Icard-Mountain View #2	\$0.0400
Longview	\$0.0620
Maiden	\$0.0340
Mountain View	\$0.0450
Newton	\$0.0560
Oxford	\$0.0600
Propst	\$0.0650

Sherrills Ford – Terrell	\$0.0400
St. Stephens	\$0.0500
Viewmont	\$0.0270

SECTION IV

Hospital Fund

The Catawba Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees is hereby required to submit a monthly copy of its financial statements to the County Finance Director which will include a budget to actual comparison of all expenses and revenues.

The Hospital maintains a balance of not less than \$4 million with the County, in the Hospital Capital Reserve Fund, to finance and construct major Hospital capital projects. As long as the \$4 million balance in the Fund is maintained, monthly depreciation payments from the Hospital are not required. Monthly payments of \$50,000 will be required any time the balance is not maintained.

The Hospital is authorized to operate as an enterprise fund.

SECTION V

Schools' Current Expense

The allocation of general revenues for the schools= current expense is \$1,106 per pupil based on the average daily membership of K-12. This amount includes \$43 per pupil to operate the following inter-school system programs--Catawba County Bus Garage, Catawba Valley High School, Conover School for Exceptional Children, the Newton-Conover ACT Program, and the Community Schools Program.

It is recommended that the three county school systems appropriate from their estimated fund balance an amount not to exceed 5% of the current expense fund for the purpose of establishing a contingency account.

In accordance with the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act, each Board of Education is required to submit to the Board of Commissioners, as soon as adopted, a copy of the School Board's budget resolution. The school finance officer will submit a quarterly statement of the financial condition of the Administrative unit to the Board of Commissioners.

SECTION VI

Capital Projects and Reports

The Facilities Director is designated as project manager for all County construction projects and the procedures set forth in "Architectural Procedures - Catawba County", adopted by the Board of Commissioners, and shall be used to coordinate the efforts of all parties involved in a project. Any changes in the estimate, as a result of bids or otherwise, shall be reported by the Facilities Director and carry his recommendation of approval to the Board of Commissioners prior to the advertising of bids. When compiled and approved by user agencies, all projects must conform to the Catawba County Design and Construction Specifications.

In accordance with the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act each school system will submit to the County Budget Manager detailed project sheets for each capital project included in this budget on sheets as specified in the "Uniform Budget" format, by January 1, 2003.

The General Capital Projects Fund, the Hospital Construction Fund, the Water and Sewer Construction Fund, the School Capital Outlay Fund, and the School Bond Capital Projects Fund are hereby authorized. Appropriations made for the specific projects in these funds are hereby appropriated until the project is completed.

SECTION VII

Grant and Capital Project Budgets

In any grant or capital project budget previously adopted, the balance of any anticipated, but not received, revenues and any unexpended appropriations remaining on June 30, 2002, shall be reauthorized in the 2002/03 budget unless a specific new budget has been prepared.

SECTION VIII
Emergency Approvals, Schools

Emergency transfers to and from the School Capital Outlay Fund shall be in accordance with the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

SECTION IX
Annual Financial Reports

All agencies receiving County funding are required to submit an audit report by December 31, 2002. Approved payments may be delayed pending receipt of this financial information.

SECTION X
Fees and Licenses

Charges for fees and licenses by Catawba County Departments or Agencies shall be in accordance with the fee policy. Fee changes to be adopted by the Board of Commissioners are set forth in the attached Schedules A and B.

SECTION XI
Per Diem Pay

In accordance with the Catawba County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, §15.04, the Board of Commissioners and members of County boards are authorized to receive per diem pay.

SECTION XII
Personnel

- A. Salaries - Salaries for 2002/03 are based on the 2002/03 pay plan for Catawba County which is adopted as a part of this budget and is effective July 1, 2002.
- B. Merit Payments - Funds are allocated in the budget to provide merit payments. The County Manager is instructed to prepare a plan for the administration of merit payments for exceptional performance to be effective during the Fiscal Year 2002/03 and to communicate said policy to all department directors and administer the plan.
- C. Travel Allowance - The travel allowance rate will be \$0.345 per mile.
- D. Special Payment - Positions that require specialized skills may be compensated by a special payment. This payment will only occur while the employee is serving in that capacity. This special payment is not considered a part of the annual base pay for classification. The amount of special payment is to be approved by the County Manager upon a recommendation by the Personnel Director.

SECTION XIII
Budget Policy for State and Federal Fund Decreases

It will be the policy of this Board that it will not absorb any reduction in State and Federal funds; that any decrease shall be absorbed in the budget of the agency by reducing personnel or department expenditures to stay within the County appropriation as authorized.

This policy is extended to any agency that is funded by the County and receives State or Federal money. This shall remain in effect until otherwise changed or amended by the Board of Commissioners. The County Manager is hereby directed to indicate this to each of the agencies that may be involved.

SECTION XIV
Reappraisal Fund

In accordance with the provisions of G.S. 153A-150, an appropriation of \$334,666 will be made from the General Fund to the Reappraisal Fund for the purpose of providing funds for the next reappraisal.

SECTION XV
Fiscal Control Act

The Budget Manager and the Finance Director are hereby directed to make any changes in the budget of fiscal practices that are required by the Local Government and Fiscal Control Act. This shall extend to permitted consolidations of funds and "Single Tax Levies" permitted in the Fiscal Control Act.

- A. As provided by G.S. 159-25 (b), the Board has authorized dual signatures for each check or draft that is made on County funds. The signatures of the County Manager, Finance Director, Assistant County Manager, and Assistant Finance Director shall be authorized signatures of the County.
- B. Operating funds encumbered on the financial records of the County as of June 30, 2002, are hereby reappropriated to this budget.
- C. The Board authorizes the appropriation of all Fund Balances earned by the Reinventing Departments as determined by the County Manager and as a result of the County's annual audit of June 30, 2002.
- D. The Board also authorizes (as is the practice) one principal account as depository for all funds received by the Finance Director from any source. Current accounting techniques shall be used to assure that all funds will be properly accounted for in the financial records of the County.

SECTION XVI
Authorization to Contract

The County Manager or his designee are hereby authorized to execute agreements, within funds included in the Budget Ordinance or other actions by the Board of Commissioners, for the following purposes: 1) Form grant agreements to public and non-profit organizations; 2) Leases of routine business equipment; 3) Consultant, professional, or maintenance service agreements; 4) Purchase of supplies, materials, or equipment where formal bids are not required by law; 5) Applications for and agreements for acceptance of grant funds from Federal, State, public, and non-profit organization sources, and other funds from other government units, for services to be rendered which have been previously approved by the Board; 6) Construction or repair projects; 7) Liability, health, life, disability, casualty, property, or other insurance or performance bonds other than similar items required by the Sheriff or Register of Deeds; and 8) Other administrative contracts which include agreements adopted in accordance with the directives of the Board of Commissioners.

SECTION XVII
Authorization to Award and Reject Bids

Pursuant to General Statute 143-129, the County Manager is hereby authorized to award formal bids received in amounts less than \$55,000 within the following guidelines: 1) bid is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder; 2) sufficient funding is available within the departmental budget; and 3) purchase is consistent with the goals and/or outcomes of the department. The County Manager shall further be authorized to reject any and/or all bids received if it is in the best interest of Catawba County. A report shall be made to the Catawba County Board of Commissioners of all bids awarded or rejected under this section and entered in the minutes of its formal sessions.

SCHEDULE A

Below are the fee changes that have been adopted as a part of this budget. All fees are effective July 1, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Municipal Fire Inspections

1 to 150 Inspections	\$5,500 per year
150 to 300 Inspections	\$7,000 per year

FACILITIES

Park Fees

Adult Bicycling Permit

County Resident	\$2.00 per day; \$20.00 per year
Non-County Resident	\$4.00 per day; \$40.00 per year
Children under 12	Free

Boating Permit

Non-County Resident	\$5.00 per day; \$10.00 per year
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Picnic Shelter Reservation

County Resident	\$5.00 per hour; \$50.00 per day
Non-County Resident	\$10.00 per hour; \$100.00 per day

LIBRARY

Adult Print Materials

Late Fee	\$0.10
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Replacement of Lost Library Card	\$1.00
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PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**Planning & Zoning Fees**

Board of Adjustment

Application for Special Use Permit, Conditional Use Permit, Extension/Change of Non-Conforming Use	\$425.00
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Copies of Ordinances/Plans

Small Area Plans	\$15.00
Subdivision Manual of Practice	\$3.00
Subdivision Regulations	\$3.00
Zoning	\$16.00

Map/Copies

Copies	\$0.05
County Street Map	\$1.00
GIS Map Copies	\$0.50

Rezoning Application

All Applications	\$650.00
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Road Assessment for POP	\$835.00
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Street Signs

Change of street name/sign	\$350.00 + \$100.00 each additional sign
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Subdivision Review - Major

Exempt Plat Review	\$25.00
Extension of Major Preliminary Plat	\$70.00
Major Final Plat	\$200.00 + \$3.00 each lot
Major Preliminary Plat	\$200.00 + \$5.00 each lot
Minor/Family/Estate Subdivision Review	\$65.00
Performance Guarantee Extension	\$40.00
Performance Guarantee - Initial Review	\$150.00
Revised Major Preliminary Plat Approval	\$70.00

Telecommunication Towers

Co-Location/Modification Review	\$1,500.00
New Tower Construction	\$5,000.00
Recertification	\$250.00

Zoning Permits

Residential Single Family	\$25.00
Residential Additions/Accessory Structures	\$25.00

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**Clinic Services**

Vaccines

Hepatitis B - County Employee	\$23.25
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Meningococcal.....	\$73.00
Twinrex (Hep A / Hep B).....	\$52.00

TAX

Copies

Tax Cards	\$0.05
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TECHNOLOGY**GIS**

Custom Maps

Aerial Map - Laser Printer.....	\$0.75
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Color Printer

Smooth Paper 11 x 17	\$2.00
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UTILITIES & ENGINEERING**Building Inspections**

Alterations, repairs to existing structure, residential accessory (permit required for building exceeding 12 ft. in any dimension, picnic shelter, pole shed, detached garage, demolition (maximum 30 day cleanup), private piers, swimming pools, signs (permit required for each sign), etc. based on contractors= estimate and using the fee schedule below with a minimum building permit fee of

\$0-\$5,000.....	\$80.00
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\$5,001-\$100,000	\$80.00 + \$2.75 for each additional thousand or part thereof
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\$100,001-\$1,000,000	\$341.25 + \$2.75 for each additional thousand or part thereof
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over \$1,000,000	\$2,366.25 + \$1.25 for each additional thousand or part thereof
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Change of contractor (owner must remain the same	\$25.00
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(if owner changes, full rates will apply to all permits)

Deck Permit	\$60.00
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Mobile Home Permit (inspection includes steps, decks, skirting, setup only)	\$65.00
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Re-trip fee for any type of inspection.....	\$110.00
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Safety Inspection (Residential).....	\$85.00
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Safety Inspections (Commercial)	\$110.00
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Refunds on Active Permits (only if no inspections have been made) less Administrative cost of \$25.00

Commercial, Industrial, and other**Permits/New and Additions**

Permit fees for building (including accessory structures that exceed 400 sq. ft.), electrical, plumbing, and mechanical shall be determined by using the following computations:

A = Total Gross Building Floor Area of Construction

B = Fee per Square Foot (from table below)

Total Gross Building Floor Area of Construction (square feet)

0 - 5,000 A x B =Permit Fee

5,001 - 15,000 (A x B x .75) + (1,250 x B) =Permit Fee

15,001 and above (A x B x .50) + (5,000 x B) =Permit Fee

Occupancy	Building General	Electrical	Plumbing	Heating	A.C.	Total
Assembly	\$0.101	\$0.045	\$0.040	\$0.024	\$0.024	\$0.234
Business	\$0.092	\$0.058	\$0.040	\$0.036	\$0.036	\$0.262
Educational	\$0.108	\$0.053	\$0.040	\$0.032	\$0.032	\$0.265
Factory/ Industrial	\$0.057	\$0.024	\$0.024	\$0.015*	\$0.015	\$0.135
Hazardous	\$0.057	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.117
Institutional	\$0.167	\$0.085	\$0.085	\$0.045	\$0.045	\$0.427
Mercantile	\$0.072	\$0.040	\$0.032	\$0.024	\$0.024	\$0.192
Residential (other than new dwelling units)	\$0.107	\$0.047	\$0.047	\$0.024	\$0.024	\$0.249
Storage	\$0.045	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015*	\$0.015	\$0.105
Utility	\$0.045	\$0.015	\$0.015	\$0.015*	\$0.015	\$0.105

Electrical

Electrical for Mechanical Change Out per Unit	\$35.00
Electrical Permit for Modular (Residential and Commercial).....	\$55.00
Electrical Service for Mobile Home	\$40.00
Electrical Service for Recreational Vehicle in an approved park.....	\$40.00
Fire Alarm System for an existing building	\$65.00
Fire Alarm System for new construction and additions	\$110.00
Load Control Devices (per dwelling unit)	\$40.00
Minimum Permit Fee for all unclassified installations	\$55.00
Pole Service, Based on Power Service Size (AMPS)	Refer to chart below
Power Service - Sub Panel	
0 - 100 AMPS	\$65.00
101 - 200 AMPS	\$95.00
201 - 400 AMPS	\$130.00
401 - 600 AMPS	\$160.00
601 - 1000 AMPS	\$195.00
1001 - 2000 AMPS	\$255.00
2001 - 3000 AMPS	\$285.00
3001 - 4000 AMPS	\$320.00
4001 - ABOVE AMPS.....	\$380.00
Service Repair due to damage	\$55.00
Sign Service, Based on Power Service Size (AMPS)	Refer to chart above
Temporary Electrical (by agreement)	\$110.00
Temporary Saw Pole	\$35.00

Mechanical

*Boiler	\$55.00
*Furnace, Air Conditioner, or Unit Heater	\$40.00
Gas Line	\$35.00
Grill, etc. (gas line inspection fee included if checked at same time unit is inspected and installed by same contractor).....	\$35.00
*Heat Pump, Apollo Unit, Gas Pac, or Furnace with A.C.	\$80.00
Hot Water Heater (Change Out)	\$40.00
Mechanical Permit for Modular (residential and commercial)	\$55.00
Mechanical Unit for Mobile Home	\$40.00
Minimum Permit Fee for all unclassified installations.....	\$55.00
*Radiant Heat Systems, Wall Furnace, Unit Heater, Fireplace Insert, Gas Logs, Gas Light, Gas Grill, Chiller, Air Handler, etc. (gas line inspection fee included if checked at the same time the unit is inspected and installed by same contractor)	\$40.00
Temporary Mechanical (by agreement)	\$110.00
<i>*These fees will apply to each of the first two Systems at one location. Each additional system will be.....</i>	<i>\$35.00</i>

Phased Construction

Footing/Foundation Permit	Based on cost of footing/foundation portion of project
Shell In Permit	Based on square footage of entire project
Upfit Permit.....	Based on cost of upfit portion of project

Plan Review

First submittal	No fee
Second submittal if items are not addressed from first review	\$50.00
Third submittal if items are not addressed from second review	\$100.00
Fourth submittal if items are not addressed from third review	\$150.00
Fifth submittal if items are not addressed from fourth review.....	\$200.00
<i>All fees charged from schedule above are due prior to the project being reviewed again.</i>	

Plumbing

Fire Sprinkler System for an existing building	\$65.00
Fire Sprinkler System for new construction and additions	\$110.00
First Toilet Room	\$80.00
Each Additional Full Toilet Room or Partial (including future ones).....	\$40.00

Gas Line	\$35.00
Hot Water Heater (Change Out)	\$40.00
Minimum Permit Fee for all unclassified installations	\$55.00
Plumbing Permit for Modular (residential and commercial)	\$55.00
Plumbing system for Mobile Home.....	\$40.00

****Fees will be assessed and collected on all permits issued****

Residential

Permits/New and Additions

Permit fees for building, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits shall be determined by multiplying the total gross building floor area (includes heated and unheated under roof) by the cost per square foot with a minimum building permit fee of \$80.00 and a minimum permit fee of \$55.00 for all associated trade permits.

*Building	Electrical	Plumbing	Heating	A.C.	Total
\$0.107	\$0.047	\$0.045	\$0.023	\$0.023	\$0.238

*Building Permits will be affected by \$5.00 surcharge effective October 1, 1991, as mandated by House Bill 37 - "Homeowners Recovery Fund" (G.S. 87-15.6)

Septage Collection Transportation & Disposal Fees (based on full loads)

Catawba County Septage Permit Number	Truck Capacity	Hickory/Newton PSG Facility Dumping Fee
0016-A, 0016-C	400 gallons	\$37.00
00295-B	600 gallons	\$37.00
00812	650 gallons	\$37.00
0016-D	800 gallons	\$37.00
0016-B, 0016-E	1,000 gallons	\$37.00
0016-F	1,000 gallons	\$37.00
00767	1,000 gallons	\$37.00
00236, 00294-B	1,600 gallons	\$59.00
00295-C	1,800 gallons	\$66.00
00320, 0005-B, 00231, 0016-G	2,000 gallons	\$73.00
00821	2,200 gallons	\$81.00
00290, 00294-A, 00294-R	2,300 gallons	\$84.00
00299, 00214	2,300 gallons	\$84.00
00293	2,400 gallons	\$88.00
00289, 00291	2,500 gallons	\$92.00
00788, 00829	2,500 gallons	\$92.00
0005-A, 00616	2,500 gallons	\$92.00
00295-A	3,000 gallons	\$110.00

NOTE: All others will be based on \$.0367 per gallon with minimum charge of \$37.00 rounded to the nearest dollar.

SOLID WASTE**Convenience Center and Residential Users of Landfill**

Minimum - up to (5) 32 gallon bags	\$4.00
Small Bulk Load - pick-up truck with 6 ft. bed (short bed)	\$8.00
Large Bulk Load - pick-up truck with 8ft. bed (long bed)	\$12.00
Excessive Load	
Pick-up with camper	\$16.00
Pick-up and small trailer (under 6 ft.)	\$24.00
Pick-up and large trailer (over 6 ft.)	\$.00

Demolition Landfill and C & D Grinder (residential users will be charge the same C & D fees as other customers)

Demolition Debris (grindable)	\$17.00 per ton
	\$8.00 minimum

(Wood lumber less than 8 ft. (untreated, unpainted, or non-creosote), pallets, grass and leaves that need to be debagged, asphalt/wood shingles)

Demolition Debris (buried)	\$19.50 per ton
	\$10.00 minimum

(Wood with sawdust, wood longer than 8 ft., painted, treated, or creosote wood, brick block and concrete with reinforcement material and/or contaminated with other waste), chipboard, press board, drywall, built-up roofing)

Mulch and Compost

Short bed 2 ton pick-up or smaller for mulch	\$5.00 per vehicle
Short bed 2 ton pick-up or smaller for compost	\$12.00 per vehicle
2.5 cubic yard loader bucket for mulch	\$6.00 per scoop
2.5 cubic yard loader bucket for compost	\$15.00 per scoop

Other Materials	\$6.00 per ton
	\$3.00 minimum

(Brick, block, and concrete without reinforcement materials and separated from other waste, clean furniture wood waste less than 2 ft. in length, sawdust)

 Yard Waste (dead tree limbs, grass, and leaves debagged) No charge

 Asphalt..... No charge

Ground/chipped wood waste, nominal diametric size no less than 2" and no more than 5" (must be pre-approved as non-hazardous)..... No charge

Stumps, Trees, Limbs, and Brush (These items will be charged on a per load basis. The amount charged will depend on the type of vehicle and if the material is separated to be grindable or if it is mixed and non-grindable. Materials brought to the landfill in a compactor vehicle will be charged by the ton.)

Vehicle Type	Grindable Load	Non-Grindable Load
Pick-up Truck	\$5.00 per load	\$8.00 per load
Single Axle	\$25.00 per load	\$70.00 per load
Tandem Axle	\$60.00 per load	\$120.00 per load
Tri-Axle	\$72.00 per load	\$135.00 per load
Trailer Dump up to 30'	\$115.00 per load	\$150.00 per load
Trailer Dump 31' to 39'	\$128.00 per load	\$170.00 per load
Trailer Dump over 39'	\$140.00 per load	\$190.00 per load

SCHEDULE B

CHAPTER 36: FEE POLICY

§ 36.01 FEES

- (A) *Generally.* Fees are adopted by reference as if fully set forth herein. Schedules and listings of fees can be found in the office of the Budget Manager.
- (B) *Fee policy for Catawba County.* The following policy is intended to insure equitable and consistent fees for the various County services. Fees will be reviewed annually, and rates consistent with these policies will be recommended in the budget process.
- (1) *Fees paid directly by citizens for services.* The philosophy for these fees is that the citizen should pay the bulk of the cost of services if he or she is the primary benefactor, but recognizes that most citizens are Catawba County taxpayers and the cost of service should also be supported by tax revenues. Under this philosophy, a higher percentage of costs is recovered through the fee. In this category, the fees and policy for cost recovery rates follows:

Service	Cost Recovery
Ambulance	50%
Tax Maps	75%
Building Inspections	100% (6-7-99)
Planning and Zoning Fees	100% (7-1-02)
Environmental Health	100% (6-7-99)
GIS	Vary

This ordinance is adopted this 3rd day of June, 2002.

/s/ W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

/s/ J. Thomas Lundy, County Manager

Chairman Ikerd thanked Budget Director Judy Ikerd and her staff. He also thanked the school systems and all county departments.

Commissioner Huffman made a motion to adopt the aforementioned Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-2003. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Report on Request to Change from At-Large to District/At-Large Election of County Commissioners.

County Manager J. Thomas Lundy said commissioners in Catawba County are elected at-large. Several months ago Lewis Woods requested that the Board of Commissioners consider going to four district representatives and one at-large. If the board was not so inclined that it consider appointing a nonpartisan committee to examine board selection alternatives.

Mr. Lundy said he and Mr. Woods met several times on this subject and discussed the state law, what other counties have done, and what it would look like to have four districts.

Mr. Lundy gave a PowerPoint presentation. He said there are four ways by North Carolina law to elect county commissioners or city council members.

Election Systems (G.S. 153A-58)

At-large: Candidates reside anywhere in county; candidates nominated by voters throughout county; Commissioners elected by voters throughout county. (Brookford, Catawba, Catawba County Board of Education, Claremont, Conover, Maiden, Newton)

District residence: Candidates reside in specific district; nominated and elected by voters throughout county.

District Nomination: Candidates reside in a specific district and district voters nominate candidates; all county voters elect Commissioners. (Hickory)

District Ward: Candidates reside in district and are nominated by district voters; voters vote only for district candidates. (Long View, Hickory Board of Education, Newton/Conover Board of Education)

Mr. Lundy's presentation included maps of residence of county commissioners from 1974 until present in Catawba County and maps of county election methods for county commissioners in North Carolina in 2002.

Important Issues Of Elections Law

In district election systems, the district population must be "as nearly equal [per Commissioner] as possible."

The Board of Commissioners determines any district boundaries.

In general, election practices or procedures must not have the effect or purpose of abridging minority voters' right to vote.

Election systems may have both at-large and district representatives.

Multi-member districts can be used.

Advantages Of District Elections

Representatives may be more accessible to their constituencies because of location and, in ward elections, smaller electoral base.

Representatives may have better understanding and knowledge of the special concerns of district constituents.

Campaigns could be less expensive.

May increase turnout because voters know someone in the district.

Could result in more balanced representation countywide.

Disadvantages Of District Elections

Could limit the pool of desirable, qualified candidates (two excellent candidates from single member district could not be elected, even though they might be the best two candidates running for office).

Because of different voter turnout rates in different districts, candidates who get the most votes in the county will not necessarily be elected.

Could deny all citizens the right to vote for all the persons who will represent and govern them. District voters have a more specific "voice," but never have an opportunity to help elect a majority of the Board.

Could produce candidates and Commissioners more concerned with special interests at the expense of overall county needs and long-range planning.

May tend to divide the county among regional interests rather than focusing the entire county on larger, more important issues.

Election System Selection/Modification Methods

Local act, enacted by General Assembly

Initiated by Board resolution, approved by voters in special referendum (G.S. 153A-60).

Mr. Lewis Woods thanked Mr. Lundy and Mr. Wyatt for working with him on this issue over the past several months. He said he hoped that the Board would not vote on this issue at this meeting but in a month or two. He said this is not a white issue or a black issue, it is a issue that concerns the voters of Catawba County. He said because of the NAACP they are working for all voters across the county. He requested that the commissioners get feedback on this issue.

Commissioner Barnes said it was surprising that there have been a wide spread of representation throughout the county over the past 30 years.

Commissioner Huffman said it was well spread over the county. She said she was prepared to vote on this issue but would get some public reaction.

Commissioner Beatty said anyone that works hard enough can get elected in Catawba County. She said it is not a matter of where you live but how hard you work.

Commissioner Hunsucker said the system has worked really well over the years and he doesn't see a need for change. He said that districts represent a certain area and he has a problem with that because he was elected to work for the whole county not just a certain district.

Chairman Ikerd said he had studied this issue and the representation was well spread throughout the county. He said there are three school systems in the county and his concern was you would have a commissioner obligated to a small district to work for that particular school system because that is where they would have to get elected. You would eliminate the possibility of qualified people. He said there is a great selection of candidates for the upcoming election. His inclination is that the current method for elections has worked very well. He said this issue can be brought before a future subcommittee then to the board.

Mr. Lundy said this issue could be brought before subcommittee within 30 to 45 days for a subsequent recommendation and action by the board.

- c. Mr. Lundy reminded the Commissioners of its joint meeting with the Catawba County Planning Board on Monday, June 17, 2002, 3:00 p.m., Government Center to discuss possible amendments to the Catawba County Zoning Ordinance, Section 515.239 Lake Norman Surface Water District, updates on the four Small Area Plans in progress within the County and other areas of interest to both boards.

11. Other items of business. None.

12. Adjournment.

At 10:20 a.m., there being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Huffman made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

W. Steve Ikerd, Chairman
Catawba County Board of Commissioners

Thelda B. Rhoney
County Clerk